Cross-Contour Banana Drawing: Wrap Lines Around the Peel

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A banana is drawn 10 cm long and 3 cm wide with a mild curve. You plan six cross-contours. Describe where you would place them and how you would space them to show volume.

Answer: Place six arcs from stem to tip at uneven intervals. Put two arcs closer together near the upper edge, two across the broad front with wider spacing, and two closer together near the lower edge. Each arc should bow gently in the same direction as the peel's curve.

Reason: Tighter spacing near the edges suggests the peel turning away, while wider spacing across the front suggests a broad surface. Consistent bowing keeps the surface continuous.

Check: Verify that all six arcs touch both side contours, no arcs cross, and spacing is tighter near the edges than across the front.

Task 2

You draw a banana with a strong bend near the middle. Explain how the curvature of the cross-contours should change from the stem end to the tip end.

Answer: Near the stem and tip ends, the cross-contours should be flatter. Near the middle of the strong bend, they should bow more strongly. The direction of bowing should stay consistent with the peel's surface.

Reason: A stronger bend means the surface curves more sharply, so the wrapping lines bow more. Flatter ends need flatter arcs to match the gentler surface.

Check: Compare the middle arcs to the end arcs: the middle arcs should show visibly more curvature, and all arcs should bow in the same general direction.

Task 3

A student draws eight cross-contours on a banana but uses equal spacing everywhere and makes every line perfectly straight. Identify the two main problems and state one fix for each.

Answer: Problem one: straight lines flatten the form; fix by curving each line to follow the peel. Problem two: equal spacing gives no volume cue; fix by tightening spacing near curved edges and widening it across the broad front.

Reason: Cross-contours communicate volume through curvature and spacing. Straight, evenly spaced lines remove both cues.

Check: Check that each line is curved and that spacing differs between the edges and the front area.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You have drawn a banana 14 cm long and 4 cm wide. One cross-contour stops 1 cm short of the lower side contour. Describe how to correct it and how to confirm the fix.

Answer: Extend that cross-contour smoothly until it touches the lower side contour, keeping its curvature consistent with neighboring lines. Then confirm that every cross-contour touches both side contours and that no line crosses another.

Reason: A cross-contour must wrap from one side contour to the other to describe the full surface. A short line leaves part of the peel undescribed.

Check: Trace each line from upper side contour to lower side contour; all should connect, and the corrected line should match its neighbors' curvature.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Side contours form a closed banana shape with consistent width and no crossing edges.
- [ ] At least four cross-contour lines are present and each touches both side contours.
- [ ] Cross-contour lines curve to follow the peel surface rather than running straight.
- [ ] Curvature direction is consistent among neighboring lines.
- [ ] Spacing varies to suggest volume, with tighter spacing near curved edges and wider spacing across the broad front.
- [ ] No shading or unrelated fruit is included; the drawing uses cross-contour lines as the primary volume cue.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in line count, exact spacing, and slight curvature differences are accepted if the wrapping and volume cues remain clear.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?